

# Gerrards Cross Town Council

South Lodge, East Common, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD 01753 888018

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## Minutes of the Commons Committee Meeting held 7pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 at South Lodge

**Present:** Cllrs H Orme (Chairman), I Bayliss, C Brown, J Chhokar, J O'Keeffe, J Palmiero, A Wood and J Woolveridge.

**In Attendance:** Cllr R Roberts and Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk).

- 1. Election of Chairman** – At the proposition of Cllr Woolveridge, seconded by Cllr Bayliss, it was agreed for Cllr Orme to be Chairman for the ensuing year.
- 2. Election of Vice-Chairman** - At the proposition of Cllr Orme, seconded by Cllr Woolveridge, it was agreed for Cllr Palmiero to be Vice- Chairman for the ensuing year.
- 3. Apologies for Absence** – None.
- 4. Public Participation** – None.
- 5. Resolve for the following councillors to carry out Health & Safety Reports for 2020-21** :- East Common –JW, West Common –IB, Play equipment – JP, The Camp – HO.
- 6. To receive Health and Safety reports and Updates as follows:-**

**HO asked for councillors to keep to the agenda and add any additional information at the end of each section.**

**East Common** – JW reported: - (i) Bags of rubbish collected during the month about 20 but too many to count; (ii) Underpass all lights working but graffiti present now both sides. Strangely no bottles or cans balanced on the railings as it used to be; (iii) Both commons very heavily used as the weather has been so good. On the whole those picnicking during the day take home or bin their rubbish but it is the after dark crowd who leave their rubbish; (iv) Good news, this morning JW met a man called Terry by the bench by the Christmas tree. He was sanitising and cleaning the picnic bench. The black bag beside him was evidence of all his picking up this morning. He told JW he had been in touch with the rubbish collectors and they said they would collect it later that morning. JW thanked him for all his good endeavours and found that he came from Fulmer but had lived in GX; (v) Both ponds are receding due to evaporation but they are popular venues for families; (vi) JW thanked JO for removing the large rug which was left on the common but needed to be binned as it was contaminated; (vii) Unfortunately JW found the remains, minus a skull, of a heron on east common. Better news, today saw and heard a flock of long tailed tits flying through the trees on east common (ix) There was a huge party opposite the Bull at the week end before last. It was hidden away but the noise must have been something as they left over 100 of those silver drug bombs and rubbish to fill five large bags; four of which were recyclable; (xii) Large branch on the ornamental cherry has been snapped/broken, just behind the teenager's shelter. It formed a good 1/3 of the entire tree, so is very noticeable and needs cutting back; (xiii) Buckinghamshire Council are being very vigilant about clearing both the rubbish bins and the dog bins all around the common; please could they have a special letter of thanks for a fine service.

**West Common** – IB reported that:-(i) The Common is looking good; but the water levels in the ponds are going down as the weather has been extremely dry; (ii) Bucks Council’s Waste Operatives are doing an excellent job and coming round every day to collect the litter. There is an enormous amount of people using West Common. Mainly families during the day but after 4pm a lot of youngsters congregate and become noisy. Last night up until midnight. IB asked for the police to be contacted and make at least 3 visits every night, including the turning circle. SM to ask Neighbourhood Police if they can make more patrols. Also check that CCTV covers the picnic benches. Hopefully any wet weather in the future will curtail late night activity; (iii) JO added there is a dangerous tree with a ‘den’ behind it by the Tesco path, Latchmore Pond end; (iv) Grass cutting is going well but will ensure cuttings are cleared from gutters.

SM

SM

**Play Equipment** – JP had no further reports. JW added that the public are still using the play equipment although there are notices to say Government has closed them. HO will re-tie the swings with cable ties again to prevent usage. SM will investigate when Government are allowing playgrounds to re-open.

HO

SM

**The Camp** – HO reported:- (i) Mostly all good but there has been some fly tipping in the same places as last year; (ii) Valley Way footpath is now all dried up and passable; (iii) Benches need varnishing; (iv) SM added that she has asked ATC to clear the ditch by Crabbe Hill car park now that it is dry.

Handyman

ATC

**7. To consider a quote to provide a hard standing surface at the entrance to West Common** from Packhorse Rd, via the rhino posts, which is used for access by the Circus and Fairground - £5975. IB asked for an alternative quote using grass creting. JO highlighted that the Common side needs to be raised as lorries go down hill when driving over the rhino post entering the Common. AW also highlighted that the concrete needs to go 2m on the road side as well in order to take the weight of the heavy vehicles so there would need to be a road closure to carry out this work. It was agreed to wait until normal services have resumed after Covid 19 before carrying out any work. However it was agreed to resurface the footpath on the turning circle with tarmac rather than consolidated sand to make it more hard wearing at this busy location.

**8. Outstanding works** – Noted. HO reported:- (i) A lot of projects have been put on hold during Covid 19; (ii) HO will chase up what is happening about the Lidar sign at the Camp; (iii) The Christmas tree has been manured; (iv) There are 2 broken wooden posts along West Common access road. SM will organise the reinstatement; (v) SM to find out when the Outdoor Gym can be installed; (vi) Additional funding for work on West Common footpath will be discussed at the next F&GP meeting.

HO

SM

SM

**9. Common’s Budget** – Noted.

**10. Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers from Anna Sullivan** – There has been no further meetings due to Covid 19.

**11. Review Footpaths** – (i) JW –The gate at Hedgerley Lane footpath is still in position and horses kept in field. She also noted that people are being very careful when walking in public places; (ii) JW reported that tree roots are making the footpath very uneven along Layters Way footpath by pedestrian bridge. However it was agreed it was very unlikely for this to be resolved; (iii) JP reported that the footpath South of Oxford Rd (by Church) needs cutting back. SM will ask ATC to do this.

**12. Communication** – (i) November addition of VOICE include usage of adult gym if it installed; (ii) ‘Don’t drop litter ‘ on Facebook, Web site and Twitter.

ATC

**13. To note general information received in the correspondence at the Council Office.**

(i) Local resident has asked for bunds not to be cut and left for wild flowers.

**14. The date of the next meeting** of the Commons Committee will be held on 6 July, 2020, 7pm at South Lodge.

Meeting closed at 7.53 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

**ES/HO**

**SM**